



Change in Albuquerque's Quality of Life

Question 1: Overall, in the past year, would you say that the City of Albuquerque has become a better place to live, is about the same, or has become worse?

		2001 DEMOGRAPHIC VARIANCES																	
	<i>OCT. 1999 SAMPLE (N = 1509)</i>	<i>JULY 2001 SAMPLE (N = 1352)</i>	GENDER		AGE				ETHNICITY		ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME					LENGTH OF ABQ. RESIDENCY			
			<u><i>MALE</i></u>	<u><i>FEMALE</i></u>	<i>18 TO 34</i>	<i>35 TO 49</i>	<i>50 TO 64</i>	<i>65 YEARS</i>	<u><i>HISPANIC</i></u>	<u><i>ANGLO</i></u>	<i>LESS</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>	<i>\$35,000</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>\$75,000</i>	<i>5 YEARS</i>	<i>6 TO 9</i>	<i>10 TO 19</i>	<i>20 YEARS</i>
					<u><i>YEARS</i></u>	<u><i>YEARS</i></u>	<u><i>YEARS</i></u>	<u><i>AND OVER</i></u>			<u><i>THAN</i></u>	<u><i>TO</i></u>	<u><i>TO</i></u>	<u><i>TO</i></u>	<u><i>OR MORE</i></u>	<u><i>OR LESS</i></u>	<u><i>YEARS</i></u>	<u><i>YEARS</i></u>	<u><i>OR MORE</i></u>
Better place	12%	14%	16%	13%	18%	13%	14%	12%	19%	11%	15%	14%	17%	11%	13%	16%	16%	14%	14%
About the same	53%	54%	56%	52%	60%	54%	51%	50%	46%	59%	49%	55%	59%	59%	68%	60%	63%	54%	51%
Worse place	32%	29%	26%	32%	18%	31%	33%	34%	33%	27%	33%	27%	22%	29%	17%	16%	19%	30%	34%
Don't know/won't say	2%	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	1%	3%	9%	2%	2%	1%

		2001 DEMOGRAPHIC VARIANCES																
	OCT. 1999 SAMPLE (N = 1509)	JULY 2001 SAMPLE (N = 1352)	EDUCATION					COMMUNITY PLANNING AREA										
			SOME	H.S.	SOME	COLL.	GRAD.	CENTRAL	WEST-	FOOT-	MID-	EAST	NEAR	NORTH	NORTH	SW MESA/		
			H.S.	COLL./	GRAD.	WORK OR	ABO	SIDE	HILLS	HEIGHTS	GATEWAY	HEIGHTS	ABO	VALLEY	SOUTH			
			OR LESS	GRAD.	ASSOC.	GRAD.	DEGREE									VALLEY		
Better place	12%	14%	15%	17%	13%	12%	13%	24%	11%	10%	18%	15%	11%	10%	12%	19%		
About the same	53%	54%	46%	47%	58%	58%	63%	46%	46%	66%	48%	53%	61%	64%	55%	51%		
Worse place	32%	29%	37%	33%	26%	27%	23%	26%	40%	23%	31%	29%	24%	23%	32%	30%		
Don't know/won't say	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%	1%	3%	3%	1%	3%	4%	4%	3%	-	-		

City residents are twice as likely to feel Albuquerque has become a worse place to live over the past year as they are to feel it has become a better place (29% and 14%, respectively). The majority of residents (54%) feel the quality of life in Albuquerque is about the same as it was last year.

Residents who are more apt to feel Albuquerque has become a worse place to live over the past year include:

- those age 35 and over as compared to younger residents (32% and 18%, respectively);
- those earning less than \$75,000 (29%) as compared to those with higher levels of income (17%);
- those who have lived in Albuquerque 10 years or more (33%) as compared to newer residents (17%);
- those with a high school education or less (35%); and
- residents living on the Westside (40%).

Comparison to Previous Study: Overall, the results are very similar to those observed in the previous study.

Favorite Aspect About Albuquerque
(UNAIDED RESPONSES)

Question 2: What do you like most about Albuquerque? What else?

	JULY 2001 SAMPLE (N = 1352)		JULY 2001 SAMPLE (N = 1352)		JULY 2001 SAMPLE (N = 1352)		JULY 2001 SAMPLE (N = 1352)
<u>Location/Setting/Size</u>		<u>Activities</u>		<u>Economic Issues</u>		<u>Ambiance</u>	
Climate/weather is pleasant	57%	Arts/cultural events	2%	Good jobs are available	2%	Nice neighborhoods	2%
Scenic mountain setting/scenery	16%	Food/restaurants	2%	Cost of living is low/reasonable	*	Clean town/area	1%
Proximity to mountains/wilderness	5%	Variety of entertainment	2%	Cost of housing is low/reasonable	*	Environmentally clean/friendly	1%
Easy access to everything	4%	Good general programs/facilities	1%	My job	*	Lack of gang/youth problems/graffiti	*
Open spaces of land	3%	Parks	1%	Potential for income growth	*	Crime rate is low	*
Air quality/atmosphere	3%	Shopping/close to shopping	1%	Labor force/skilled labor available	*	Nice city	*
Peaceful/isolated	2%	Recreation facilities	*	Taxes are reasonable	*	Colorful bridges	*
Growth rate is just right	1%	Zoo	*	Wages are good	*	Southwest charm	*
Outdoor recreation	1%	Senior centers	*	Financial plan	*	Safe place to live	*
Far away from big cities	1%	Balloon Fiesta	*	Economic base is growing	*	Lights at night	*
Access to skiing/sports	1%	Golf course	*	Presence of SNL/Kirtland AFB	*	The North Valley	*
Sunsets/sky	1%	Downtown	*	Wealth	*	Old neon signs	*
Location/geographic location	*	Church social groups	*			Ambiance	*
Southwest	*	Botanical gardens	*	<u>Infrastructure/Schools/Hospitals</u>		Historical background	*
No natural disasters	*	Summer activities	*	Higher education available	1%	No skyscrapers	*
Desert	*	Rehabilitation/Downtown	*	Good hospitals/medical centers	1%	Housing designs/architecture	*
River	*	The variety of amenities	*	Traffic is light/low traffic congestion	*		
Bosque	*	Casinos	*	Roads/streets/highways good condition	*	<u>Other</u>	
		Excellent church	*	Educational system is good	*	Govt./political leadership competent	*
<u>Human Interest</u>		Broncos program	*	UNM	*	Potential	*
Friendly people	15%	Dance clubs	*	Schools are good	*	Trying to progress	*
Small town atmosphere	9%	Bike paths	*	Good police department	*	Non-smoking areas in city	*
Cultural diversity	7%	Enjoy university area	*	UNM Hospital	*	Very little	*
Close to family	4%	Libraries	*	Transportation system	*		
Was born here/familiarity	2%					Everything	5%
Laid-back atmosphere	2%					Nothing	1%
It's home	1%					Don't know/won't say	5%
Immigrant-friendly	*						
Lifestyle	*						

* Less than 1% reported.

Note: The sum of the percentages exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

When asked in an unaided, open-ended manner what they like most about Albuquerque, the majority (57%) of residents mention the climate, while 16% mention the scenic mountain setting and 15% cite the friendly people. Other frequently mentioned attributes include: small town atmosphere (9%), cultural diversity (7%), everything (5%) and proximity to the mountains/wilderness (5%).

Primary Problem Facing Albuquerque Residents

(UNAIDED RESPONSES)

Question 3: What is the single biggest problem facing residents of Albuquerque today?

	JULY 2001 SAMPLE (N = 1352)		JULY 2001 SAMPLE (N = 1352)		JULY 2001 SAMPLE (N = 1352)		JULY 2001 SAMPLE (N = 1352)
<u>Crime/Personal Safety</u>		<u>Infrastructure</u> (continued)		<u>Economic Issues</u> (continued)		<u>Other</u>	
Crime rate is high	33%	Orange barrels/constant repairs	1%	Utilities high	1%	Baseball stadium	1%
Gangs	4%	Energy	*	Cost of housing is high/unreasonable	*	Lack of youth activities	*
Drugs/dealers	2%	Trash collection	*	Lack of aggressiveness toward	*	Family problems	*
DWI rate is high	1%	Trash	*	economic development	*	Medical care	*
Graffiti	1%	Infrastructure growth for utilities	*	Gas prices high	*	Indifference/empathy	*
Police don't respond/lack of presence	1%	Night time public transportation	*	Poverty	*	People are unfriendly	*
Vandalism	1%			Economy	*	Discrimination	*
Homelessness is high	*	<u>Government/Education/Services</u>		Unemployment high	*	Cultural diversity/lack of events	*
Need more police officers	*	Gov./political leadership incompetent	5%	City funding	*	People coming from Mexico/foreigners	*
Violence	*	Educational system is poor	3%	Lack of money for revitalization	*	Too many rentals/apartments	*
Domestic/family violence	*	The mayor	1%	Industrial revenue bonds	*	Reservations/too much land	*
Drivers/too wild/too careless/bad	*	Government spending	*	Budget cutbacks	*	Last in all things good,	
Road rage	*	Too much government intervention	*	Programs being dropped for lack of money	*	first in all things bad like DWI's	*
Police dept. needs more money	*	Politics	*			Gambling	*
Gun laws	*	Lack of support for teachers	*	<u>Environmental Issues</u>		Lack of discipline	*
Laws not enforced	*	Management of school districts	*	Lack of water/water supply	4%	No neighborhood involvement	*
Teenagers cruising Central NW	*	Not business-friendly	*	Noise	*	Intel	*
Not safe	*	Lack of city services	*	Environment/polluted air/water	*	Small town attitude	*
Bad publicity regarding crime/violence	*	Inadequate mental healthcare	*	Climate/weather is unpleasant	*	Big city problems	*
Police writing tickets instead of		Overcrowded schools	*	Nuclear waste transport/WIPP	*	Losing the Dukes	*
catching criminals	*	Area code dispute	*	Lack of landscaping/vegetation	*	Immigrants not able to get driver's license	*
Poor judicial system	*	Government help	*	Ground water pollution/contamination	*	Alcohol abuse	*
Police force is unskilled	*	Same services in all areas of Albuquerque	*	Weed ordinance not enforced/		The media	*
Curfew hours need enforcing	*	No progression	*	property upkeep	*		
Old pipelines	*	Good ole boys attitude	*			Nothing/no drawbacks	1%
Poor lighting	*	School dropouts	*			Don't know/won't say	5%
				<u>Growth/Planning</u>			
<u>Infrastructure</u>		<u>Economic Issues</u>		Growing too big/too fast	3%		
Traffic congestion	7%	Cost of living is high/unreasonable	3%	Land development out of control	1%		
Big I construction	2%	Taxes are high/unreasonable	3%	Too many people	*		
Lack of good city transit	2%	Good jobs are unavailable/few	2%	Lack of master planning	*		
Roads/streets/highways/ poor	1%	Low wages	1%	Partially built	*		

* Less than 1% reported.

When asked what is the single biggest problem facing residents of Albuquerque today, one-third say the crime rate is high, while 7% mention traffic congestion and 5% feel the political leadership is incompetent. While many other problems were mentioned, none of these were specifically cited by more than 4% of residents.

Other Problems Facing Albuquerque Residents
AMONG THOSE WHO SAID THERE WAS A PROBLEM FACING ALBUQUERQUE TODAY
 (UNAIDED RESPONSES)

Question 4: What other problems are facing Albuquerque residents today?

<u>CRIME/PERSONAL SAFETY</u>	JULY 2001 RESPONSES (N = 1269)	<u>INFRASTRUCTURE</u> (continued)	JULY 2001 RESPONSES (N = 1269)	<u>ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES</u>	JULY 2001 RESPONSES (N = 1269)	<u>OTHER</u>	JULY 2001 RESPONSES (N = 1269)
Crime rate is high	18%	Energy	*	Lack of water/water supply	7%	Lack of youth activities	1%
Gangs	7%	Too few bridges over the Rio Grande	*	Environment/polluted air/water	1%	Baseball stadium	1%
Drugs/dealers	4%	Too much use of energy	*	Noise	1%	People are not friendly	1%
Graffiti	3%	Airport too small	*	Ground water pollution/contamination	1%	Medical care	1%
DWI rate is high	2%	Low income housing/special situations	*	Lack of landscaping/vegetation	*	Family problems	1%
Violence	1%	Homes on busy streets	*	Air pollution	*	Too few cultural events	*
Police/don't respond/lack of presence	1%	Infrastructure growth for utilities	*	Climate/weather is unpleasant	*	Lack of discipline	*
Homelessness is high	1%	Draining water flooding streets	*	Water restrictions	*	City looks dumpy	*
Domestic/family violence	1%			No water conservation by city	*	No neighborhood involvement	*
Need more police/cops	1%	<u>Government/Services/Education</u>		Cockroaches	*	Teenagers cruising Central NW	*
School violence	1%	Educational system is poor	10%			No baseball/losing the Dukes	*
Drivers/too wild/too careless/bad	1%	Gov./pol. leadership incompetent	5%	<u>Economic Issues</u>		Lack of parental involvement	*
Vandalism	*	The mayor	1%	Cost of living is high/unreasonable	5%	Lack of entertainment	*
Not safe	*	Weed ordin. not enforced/property upkeep	1%	Taxes are high/unreasonable	4%	Indifference/empathy	*
Laws not enforced	*	Lack of recreation facilities/parks	1%	Good jobs are unavailable/few	3%	Discrimination	*
Gun violence	*	Government spending	*	Low wages	3%	Moral decline	*
Police dept. needs more money	*	Lack of support for teachers	*	Cost of housing is high/unreasonable	2%	Lack of access to entertainment facilities	*
Dogs/loose pets	*	Programs being dropped for lack of money	*	Utilities high	2%	Lack of entertainment venues	*
Police too eager to use guns	*	Area code dispute	*	Gas prices high	1%	Alcohol abuse	*
Police attitude of superiority	*	Cutting back social services	*	Gambling	*	Small town attitude	*
Inadequate jail system/release	*	No progression	*	Poverty	*	Prescription drugs for seniors	*
Animal cruelty	*	Not business-friendly	*	Economy	*	Cultural diversity/lack of events	*
Poor lighting	*	Government under-represented on West Side	*	Lack of housing	*	Lack of stores	*
Inconsistent arrests	*			Labor force/skilled labor unavailable	*		
Teen drinking	*	Politics	*	Budget cutbacks	*	Nothing/no drawbacks	9%
Escapes from BCDC	*	Good ole boys attitude	*	Cost of healthcare for businesses/employees	*	Don't know/won't say	10%
Drunks	*	Management of resources	*				
Rape	*	Inadequate mental healthcare	*	Newcomers stealing jobs	*	* Less than 1% reported.	
		Lack of school sports	*	Lack of money for parks with trees	*		
		People abusing the welfare system	*	Lack of money for revitalization	*	Note: The sum of the percentages exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.	
<u>INFRASTRUCTURE</u>		Zoning laws/policies	*				
Traffic congestion	12%	Speech therapy not available	*	<u>Growth/Planning</u>			
Roads/streets/highways/poor	4%	to home-schoolers	*	Growing too big/too fast	4%		
Big I construction	3%	Too many restrictions on open space	*	Land development out of control	2%		
Orange barrels/constant repairs	3%	Lack of aggressiveness toward econ. dev.	*	Lack of master planning	*		
Lack of good city transit	2%	Lack of city services	*	Too many people	*		
Trash	1%	Trash collection	*	Partially built	*		
Infrastructure deteriorating	*			Uncontrolled growth on West Side	*		

When asked what other problems are facing the area another 18% mention the crime rate is high, while 12% mention traffic congestion, 10% say the education system is poor, 7% cite the gang problem and 7% mention the lack of water. One-fifth of Albuquerque residents either did not mention any other problems (10%) or said there are no other problems (9%).